Proposal to change the Gold Control Act

1127. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change the present Gold Control Act;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed two working groups to look into the Gold Control Act and the policy on gold;

(c) whether working groups have submitted their reports; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d) Government had set up two Working Groups headed by (i) Shri J. Datta and (ii) Dr. C. Rangarajan to look into the Gold Control Act and the policy on gold respectively. The Groups have since submitted their reports. The recommendations of the Datta Committee *inter-alia* included increase in limts in primary gold to be possessed by goldsmiths; modifications in records and returns; review of the system of licensing of gold dealers and relaxation under the Act to facilitate export. The Rangarajan Committee had *inter-alia* suggested modifications in the Gold Control Act, review of the present ceiling on the aggregate value of the gold jewellery that could be brought into India free of duty under the Transfer of Residence Rules 1978. Considering this the Government has a proposal to abolish the Gold (Control) Act.

Decolourising 100 Rupee Notes

1128. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to decolourise one hundred rupee notes presently in circulation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether five hundred rupee notes are also to be demonetised?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Development of Tourist Spots in Marathwada Region

1129. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Central Government's consideration to develop more tourist spots in Marathwada region of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for the construction of Yatri Niwas at Latur is under the consideration of the Central Department of Tourism.

Guidelines issued by Election Commission to State Governments

1130. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission issued any guidelines to the State Government not to effect any transfer of officers connected with polling work before elections are completed in the respective States;

(b) if so, whether these guidelines were complied with by the State Governments concerned; and

(c) whether any State Government questioned the competence of the Election Commission to issue the guidelines referred to in part (a) above?